

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-7. (cancelled)

8. (new) A lancet, comprising:

a body (2);

a neck (6) located at a first end of the body;

a cap (3) connected to the body at the neck and integrally moulded with the body,

the cap being of a cup form with, at a front end, a base (11) having a central aperture (12),

an exterior surface of the cap flaring outwardly from the base into an elliptical cross-section at a break circumference,

the exterior surface extending beyond the break circumference, to a rear end of the cap, as a constant elliptical cross-section portion (13),

a first abutment (7) located on the body;

two inwardly-directed opposed lugs (14), limited in position to an internal part of the constant elliptical cross-section portion (13), the two inwardly-directed opposed lugs (14)

located on an inner surface of the constant elliptical cross-section portion (13) on the minor axis thereof; and

a needle (4) with a tip (5) projecting into the neck, wherein,

the rear end of the cap connects to a cylindrical forward end of a firing device by squeezing the constant elliptical cross-section portion (13) along the major axis of the elliptical cross-section to deform the elliptical cross-section into a circular cross-section,

upon firing the lancet the needle tip momentarily projects through the aperture and then retracts so that the needle tip is within the cap, and

upon removal of the firing device from the cap, the constant elliptical cross-section portion (13) resumes the elliptical cross-section with the opposed lugs (14) closing towards each other and engaging the body rearwardly of the first abutment to capture the body within the cap.

9. (new) The lancet of claim 8, wherein,

two opposed longitudinal slots (15) originate at the two opposed lugs and extend to the rim of the base;

the first abutment comprises two axially spaced circular ribs (7, 8) located on the body and defining a gap therebetween,

upon firing the lancet the needle tip momentarily projects through the aperture and then retracts so that the needle

tip is within the cap and the opposed lugs are proximate the gap between the two ribs.

10. (new) The lancet of claim 8, further comprising a second abutment (8) to the rear of the first abutment (7), the projections (14) being adapted to engage between the first and second abutments (7, 8) when the cap (3) is removed from a firing device.

11. (new) The lancet of claim 8, in combination with a firing device wherein the rear of the lancet body (2) is non-rotatively receivable by a holder in the firing device.

12. (new) A lancet, comprising:
a body (2) with a neck (6) located at a first end;
a cap (3) connected to the body at the neck,
the cap having a front end with a base (11) having a central aperture (12),
an exterior surface of the cap flaring outwardly into an elliptical cross-section at a break circumference,
the exterior surface extending beyond the break circumference, to a rear end of the cap, as a constant elliptical cross-section portion (13);

a gap located between two axially spaced circular ribs (7, 8) of the body, the ribs extending beyond a cylindrical envelope of remaining portions of the body;

two opposed lugs (14) extending inwardly from an internal part of the constant elliptical cross-section portion (13), the two opposed lugs located on the minor axis of the constant elliptical cross-section portion;

two opposed longitudinal slots (15) originating at the two opposed lug and extending to the rim of the base; and

a needle (4) with a tip (5) projecting into the neck, wherein,

the rear end of the cap connects the cap to a cylindrical forward end of a firing device by squeezing the constant elliptical cross-section portion (13) along the major axis of the elliptical cross-section to deform the elliptical cross-section into a circular cross-section corresponding to the cylindrical forward end of the firing device,

upon firing the lancet the needle tip momentarily projects through the aperture and then retracts so that the needle tip is within the cap, and

upon removal of the firing device from the cap, the constant elliptical cross-section portion (13) resumes the elliptical cross-section with the opposed lugs (14) closing towards each other and engaging the body at the gap between the ribs to capture the body within the cap.

13. (new) The lancet of claim 12, wherein, the body has a cruciform cross section.

14. (new) A lancet, comprising:

a body (2) holding a needle (5);

a cap (3) connected to the body at a neck, the cap concealing a tip of the needle and being breakable away from the body at the neck to expose the tip,

the cap having a front end with a base (11) having a needle aperture (12),

an exterior surface of the cap flaring outwardly from the base into an elliptical cross-section at a break circumference,

the exterior surface extending beyond the break circumference, to a rear end of the cap, as a constant elliptical cross-section portion (13);

a gap located between two axially spaced circular ribs (7, 8) of the body, the ribs extending beyond a cylindrical envelope of remaining portions of the body;

two opposed lugs (14) extending inwardly from an internal part of the constant elliptical cross-section portion (13); and

two opposed longitudinal slots (15) originating at the two opposed lug and extending toward the rim of the base, and, wherein,

the rear end of the cap connects the cap to a cylindrical forward end of a firing device by squeezing the constant elliptical cross-section portion (13) along the major axis of the elliptical cross-section to deform the elliptical cross-section into a circular cross-section corresponding to the cylindrical forward end of the firing device,

upon firing the lancet the needle tip momentarily projects through the aperture and bounces back so that the needle tip is within the cap, and

upon removal of the firing device from the cap, the constant elliptical cross-section portion (13) resumes the elliptical cross-section with the opposed lugs (14) closing towards each other and engaging the body at the gap between the ribs to capture the body within the cap.

15. (new) The lancet of claim 14, wherein, the body has a cruciform cross section.